

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2663
PATENT
Application # 09/473,953
Attorney Docket # 113523 (1014-086)

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;

detecting a service alarm in at least one ring of the SONET ring family;

and

directing traffic from the at least one ring in which a service alarm is detected onto the first protection SONET ring or the second protection SONET ring; and

~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining whether the the second protection SONET ring is in use.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;

detecting a service alarm in at least one ring of the SONET ring family;

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and

directing traffic from the at least one ring in which a service alarm is detected onto the first protection SONET ring or the second protection SONET ring; and

~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising marking the protection ring as being in use if no alarms in the protection ring are detected in the protection ring is not in use.~~

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;

detecting a service alarm associated with a subset of rings of the SONET ring family;

and

directing traffic from a highest priority ring of said subset of rings to the second protection SONET ring; and

~~The method according to claim 7, further comprising determining whether the second protection SONET ring is in use.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection

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SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection

SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;

detecting a service alarm associated with a subset of rings of the SONET ring family;

and

directing traffic from a highest priority ring of said subset of rings to the second

protection SONET ring;

~~The method according to claim 7, further comprising marking second protection SONET~~
ring as in use.

20. (Canceled)